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### The Collections From and About Kazakhstan at the Library of Congress

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## IN OUR LIBRARIES

# The Collections From and About Kazakhstan at the Library of Congress

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*The Library of Congress is the largest repository of materials from and about Kazakhstan outside Kazakhstan and the CIS countries. This article provides an overview of the collections. Most of it focuses on print resources, but descriptions of photograph and map collections available in digital format are also included.*

**KEYWORDS** *Library of Congress, maps, print collections, photo collections, Kazakhstan, Kazakh, Central Asia, Central Asian*

## INTRODUCTION

The Library of Congress is the largest repository of materials from and about Kazakhstan outside Kazakhstan and CIS countries. Most of the article is an overview of print collections, but descriptions of photographs and maps collections available in digital format at the Library of Congress are also included. Maps can be accessed online at the library's website; the earliest map is dated in the 1720s. Photo collections include photos from Prokudin-Gorskii albums, which contain rare pictures of Kazakhs in the early twentieth century. The overview is not a comprehensive list of all materials but it is an attempt to give a general description of resources for researchers.

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## OVERVIEW

The Library of Congress collections of monographs, bound periodicals, and annuals include approximately 15,000 titles from or about Kazakhstan. The vast majority of these titles are monographs, but among the serials are runs of approximately 200 periodicals, bulletins, annuals, and newspapers. The total number of volumes of monographs and bound serials is estimated at between 25,000 and 30,000, as many of the individual titles are multi-volume.

These materials cover all disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, with particular strengths in history, politics, language, and literature. Due to Russian, and later Soviet, rule in Kazakhstan more than 55 percent of these materials are in Russian. Twenty-five percent are in Kazakh, 10 percent in English, 5 percent in other Central Asian languages, and nearly 1 percent in Chinese. In addition, works in Turkish, French, Armenian, Ukrainian, and German account for at least 30 titles each.

For the period 2005–2010, the library averaged annual receipts of approximately 250 monographic titles from or about Kazakhstan, of which about 165 titles emanated from Kazakhstan and about 85 monographs were published in China, Russia, English-speaking countries, and elsewhere. From within Kazakhstan, the vast majority of publications are from the country's largest city and industrial center, Almaty, which served as the capital from 1929 until 1997. It was known by its Russian name, Alma-Ata, during the Soviet period, through 1991. Nearly all of the remaining titles emanate from Astana, the capital since 1997.

Before the nineteenth century the nomadic lifestyle of the Kazakhs precluded written works. Folklore, legal codes and other learning were transmitted and preserved via oral tradition. Kazakh poet and writer Abai (i.e., Abai Qunanbaev, 1845–1904) is considered to be the founder of Kazakh written literature. Three radically different scripts have been used for the Kazakh language. Before the 1930s the Kazakh language was written and printed in Arabic script, and even today a modified Arabic script remains in use for Kazakh-language materials printed in China. In Kazakhstan itself, however, the Arabic scripts employed up to 1929 began to be phased out and replaced starting in 1928 by a Latin-based alphabet, which was used up to 1940. In that year Soviet policy dictated a shift to a Cyrillic alphabet, and it is still in use. Kazakh society today is divided between maintaining the Cyrillic alphabet and returning to a Latin-based alphabet.

The following reference work describes the various scripts and alphabets, and it describes many of the Library of Congress's Kazakh-related holdings from 1818 to 1945: Edward Allworth, *Nationalities of the Soviet East: Publications and Writing Systems; a Bibliographical Directory Including Transliteration Tables for Iranian- and Turkic-Language Publications, 1818–1945, Located in U.S. Libraries* (New York: Columbia University Press,

1971). Besides the transliteration tables, the larger portion of the work provides a bibliography and specific holdings of the Library of Congress and eight other major research libraries in the United States.

## THE GENERAL COLLECTIONS

The General Collections house the vast majority of the library's bound volumes in English and other European languages, and because most of the materials that relate to Kazakhstan are in Russian, English, and other European languages, the General Collections hold the largest number of volumes from or about Kazakhstan. These materials may be found in the online catalog and requested from any of several reading rooms. They include monographs, annuals, and bound periodicals in European languages, but exclude newspapers. Because Kazakhstan served as a major center for industrial development and agriculture during the Soviet period, the library's collections are particularly strong in materials from Kazakhstan that concern metallurgy, agriculture, and the oil and gas industries. The collections are equally impressive, however, in Kazakh history, language, and literature, as well as in such subjects as archeology and education. Because the library has maintained book exchanges with all the major Kazakh and post-Soviet universities and academies of sciences, scholarly publications are well-represented in the collections.

The library maintains over 30 telephone directories from Kazakhstan from 1956 to the present. A holdings list of these directories has been compiled under the broader heading of *Address/Telephone Directories from Central Asia at the Library of Congress*, and list can be consulted at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/phoneca/caphone.html#kaz>.

## THE AFRICAN & MIDDLE EASTERN DIVISION

The African & Middle Eastern Division (AMED) is the library's primary center for questions relating to countries and regions from Southern Africa to the Maghreb and from the Middle East to Central Asia. Contact information for that division's specialists concerning Kazakhstan can be found at: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/nes/cty/ckz/ckzhome.html>. That Web page also provides an online version of a basic work on Kazakhstan's history and society, *A Country Study: Kazakhstan*, compiled by the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress. AMED maintains custody of materials in Kazakh and other Central Asian languages, as well as in the other indigenous languages of the 77 countries covered by the division. They hold over 2,250 Kazakh-language monographs.

Much of the AMED collection focuses on language and literature. There is an effort to collect the monographs of famous Kazakh authors, including from the Soviet era. One notable item is the first printed book of Ibrahim Altynsarin (1841–1889), Kazakh linguist and educator. Among the important authors for whom the library has good collections in both Kazakh and Russian are the earlier mentioned Abai (1845–1904), as well as Bauyrzhan Momyshuly (1910–1982), Saken Seifullin (1894–1938), Abdizhamil Nurpeisov (1924–), and Mukhtar Auezov (1897–1961).

The African & Middle Eastern Reading Room's reference collection contains for Kazakhstan basic histories, biographical directories, bibliographies, encyclopedias, and several general and specialized dictionaries. The reference collection also contains quite a number of basic works devoted to the whole of Central Asia. Although they are not part of the reference collection, the division makes available several Soviet-era encyclopedias in Kazakh, especially from the 1970s and 80s.

### Kazakh-language Materials from China

Around 30 percent of AMED's Kazakh-language materials are in a modified Arabic script, and most of these Arabic-script, Kazakh-language materials are printed in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, which borders Kazakhstan. During the Russian Civil War and Revolution (1917–1922) several hundred thousand Kazakh peasants moved to the Xinjiang region of China. According to China's census of 2000, some 1.1 million Kazakhs live in the Xinjiang Region. Because Kazakhstan has used a Cyrillic script for its language since 1940, only a very small percentage of the people in Kazakhstan can read the Arabic-script Kazakh materials published in China's Xinjiang Region.

For the most part, the Arabic-script Kazakh materials from China held by AMED have been grouped into broad subject categories for the purpose of collection-level cataloging. For instance, 150 or more Kazakh-language publications from China on politics and political science have been given the collection-level catalog record found at this URL: <http://lcn.loc.gov/99194162>. Nine other collection-level records for other broad subjects for Arabic-script Kazakh materials from China are listed below:

- Classical literature in Kazakh, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195341>
- Kazakh children's literature, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99194976>
- Kazakh folk literature, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195342>
- Kazakh grammars, dictionaries, and linguistic studies, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195338>
- Kazakh history, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195347>

- Kazakh-language publications on miscellaneous topics, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195350>
- Kazakh literature, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99193337>
- Kazakh publications on agriculture and animal husbandry, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195227>
- World literature translated into Kazakh, <http://lcn.loc.gov/99195051>

### Serials in the Kazakh language

The African & Middle Eastern Division provides access to newspapers, periodicals, and annuals in Kazakh. Among these are more than 20 Kazakh-language newspapers, mostly retrospective holdings on microfilm. Most of them can be searched in the library's online catalog, <http://catalog.loc.gov>, by using the Guided Search option and placing the word *Kazakhstan* in one search box and *newspapers* in another. The result comprises newspapers from Kazakhstan, whether in Kazakh, Russian, or other languages, and includes related materials.

One newspaper from Kazakhstan was intended for distribution among the Kazakhs and Uighurs in China. It was issued simultaneously as two separate publications, a Kazakh-language version (*Bizding Otan*) and a Uighur-language version (*Bizning vatan*), and both versions employ an Arabic script. AMED has microfilm for both from their beginnings in December 1976 through June 1988. In addition, AMED has microfilm of one other Uighur-language newspaper from Kazakhstan, *Yengi hayat*, for much of August 1992 through November 1994. It is printed using the Cyrillic alphabet.

Examples of periodicals currently received are *Otan tarikhy* (about Kazakh history), *Parasat* (about political life in Kazakhstan), and *Zhuldyz* (about Kazakh literature). AMED receives microfilm for another important serial about Kazakh literature, the newspaper-format weekly entitled *Ana tili*. In addition to current newspapers and periodicals, the African & Middle Eastern Division maintains retrospective holdings for more than 100 serials in Kazakh.

The library receives quite a number of periodicals and annuals concerning statistics in Kazakhstan. These can be located in the online catalog using Guided Search and placing the three words *Kazakhstan*, *statistics*, and *periodicals* in the three search boxes.

### THE EUROPEAN READING ROOM

The European Reading Room provides direct access to a number of reference works on Kazakhstan, such as encyclopedias, histories, bibliographies,

serials, and other reference sources in the Russian language. The reading room makes available for onsite use numerous bibliographic databases and full-text resources, many of which contain citations or texts pertaining to Kazakhstan.

The library provides access to about 30 Russian-language newspapers from Kazakhstan, primarily national and other papers from Almaty but including at least 9 regional or local newspapers. Some of them are older, accessible either on microfilm or in bound volumes; others are available electronically. Details are provided in the section for Kazakhstan in the online finding aid *Russian Newspapers at the Library of Congress*, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/newspapers/ru/runews1.html>.

For instance, among the titles on microfilm listed in that finding aid are *Alma-Atinskaia pravda*; *Kazakhstanskaia pravda*; *Leninskaia smena*; *Megapolis*; *Bol'shevik Altaia*; and *Za bol'shevistskie kolkhozy*. As examples of the many Russian-language periodicals from Kazakhstan, several pertain to economics, e.g., *Al'pari: ekonomicheskii zhurnal*; *Tranzitnaia ekonomika*; and *Delovoi mir*. Politics, government, as well as economic conditions are considered in periodicals such as *Analytic: analiticheskoe obozrenie* and *Evraziiskoe soobshchestvo*.

## THE ASIAN DIVISION

The Asian Division has materials from or about Kazakhstan in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Urdu, and other Asian languages. The Asian Division has microfilm of most of 1956–1990 for a Korean-language newspaper from Kysylorda, Kazakhstan (Kzyl-Orda during the Soviet era) entitled *Lenin kichi*. Many Koreans lived in the Russian Far East as early as 1860. In 1937, Stalin became paranoid that the Koreans in Russia would assist Japan in case of war, and he had 140,000 Koreans displaced that year to Kazakhstan.

## PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

The collections accessible through the Prints & Photographs Reading Room (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print>) number more than 13 million images. These include photographs, fine and popular prints, drawings, posters, and architectural and engineering drawings. Of special interest for researchers studying Kazakhstan are photographs from Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii's (1863–1944) *Golodnaia step'* album (also spelled *Golodnaia steppe*), part of a collection that includes photos of the vast Russian Empire taken between ca. 1905 and 1915. Frequent subjects among the 2,607 images include people, religious architecture, historic sites, industry and agriculture,



public works construction, scenes along water and railway routes, and views of villages and cities.

The *Turkestanskii al'bom* [Turkestan album] provides a visual survey of Central Asia from the perspective of the Russian imperial government, which took control of the area in the 1850s and 1860s. It comprises about 1,200 photographs, with some architectural plans, watercolor drawings, and maps. The overview page can be found at [http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/287\\_turkestan.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/287_turkestan.html).

Also of interest is the William Douglas Collection, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/lmc1995000037/PP/>, part of the Look Magazine Photograph Collection. These photographs show aspects of life in the Soviet Union, primarily Central Asia (Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan) and Moscow. Coverage is broad, but among the many subjects portrayed are country life; women's employment; religious facilities (churches, mosques, synagogues); religious services; and markets.

## GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION

The Geography & Map Reading Room provides access to millions of maps, atlases, and other cartographic materials, including hundreds of maps relating to Kazakhstan. These comprise not only general maps, but a collection of highly specialized maps on geology and other subtopics, many going back hundreds of years. Various cantonal maps indicate developments in Kazakh history, for example, the Map of Independent Tartaria (territory of Central Asia) printed in 1871, London.

Kazakh territories can be found in maps dating back to the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Kazakh and other Central Asian territories were called *Independent Tartary* in almost all maps printed in Europe in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries.

The Geography and Map Division has digitized selected maps, including several dozen under the category Russia at <http://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=&fa=subject%3Arussia>. Some of them include the territory of Central Asia, e.g., an ethnographic map of the Russian Empire's Asian territories in the 1870s, entitled *Karta aziatskoi Rossii* [Map of Asian Russia] <http://www.loc.gov/item/99447786>.

A more recent ethnographic map, this one produced by the U.S. government, is entitled *Major Ethnic Groups in Central Asia*: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g7211e.ct002603>.

A map of Asia from 1799 produced in London is also of interest: *Asia with Its Islands and Different Regions: According to their Modern Divisions; also the Discoveries made by Capt. Cook*: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g7400.ct001991>.

Although most of the maps of Kazakhstan are not yet digitized, they are readily available for those who can make a research visit. The library's online catalog provides records for about 400 maps of Kazakhstan, but in fact the actual number of maps, atlases, and other cartographic materials is higher.

Particularly for the Soviet period, the Geography and Map Division's collections are comprehensive in topographic, geological, and topical maps of the former USSR (most of them published by the Soviet cartographic agency, Glavnoe upravlenie geodezii i kartografii). One can find maps with different subjects, which can include territories of Kazakhstan. Some of the categories include: agriculture, animals, climate, Central Asia, diseases, economics, economic-natural resources, education, fish and fisheries, forests, geology, industries, laws, literature, military, mines and minerals, pictorial, population, power, prisons, concentration camps, railroads, roads, recreation, soils, Russian Empire, territorial expansion, trade, transportation, USSR, war (including Civil War), and World War II.

A recent atlas is entitled *Bolshoi atlas Kazakhstana* [Large atlas of Kazakhstan] (Moscow: Dizain, informatsiia, kartografiia; Almaty: Feoriia, 2011), which contains information about the history, culture, economics, and development of modern Kazakhstan. Researchers should contact the Geography and Map Reading Room regarding maps—including hundreds of older maps, especially from the 1800s and up to 1970—that may not yet be in the library's online catalog.

## LAW LIBRARY

The Law Library Reading Room holds approximately 2000 titles published in Kazakhstan or pertaining to Kazakh law. It includes the modern constitution of Kazakhstan, as well as constitutions of the Kazakh Soviet Socialistic Republic, beginning with the first one from 1936. All major laws and official documents pertaining to laws can be found there. Monographs are also well represented. Among the many law journals of note are the following three: *Femida: Respublikalyq zang zhurnaly* = *Respublikanskii iuridicheskii zhurnal* [Republic law journal]; *Grazhdanskoe zakonodatelstvo* [Civil legislation]; and *Zang zbane zaman* = *Zakon i vremia* [Law and time].

Of interest for questions concerning Kazakh law are the following compilations by Igor Kavass:

- *Soviet Law in English: Research Guide and Bibliography, 1970–1987* (Buffalo, NY: W. S. Hein, 1988);
- *Law in Russia and the Other Post-Soviet Republics: A Bibliographic Survey of English Language Literature, 1992–1995* (Buffalo, NY: W. S. Hein, 1997); and

- *Law in Russia and the Other Post-Soviet Republics: A Bibliographic Survey of English Language Literature, 1996–2001* (Buffalo, NY: W. S. Hein, 2002).

## MUSIC DIVISION

This collection contains approximately 300 titles from and about Kazakhstan. One of the best overviews of Kazakhstan's music and performing arts is the entry for that country found in the 29-volume *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd edition (London: Distributed by Macmillan; New York: Distributed by Grove's Dictionaries, 2001). Researchers can find names of operas, famous composers and performers, as well as names of well-known Kazakh music researchers.

Kazakh music and performing arts are represented in well over 300 works, printed music (such as scores and sheet music), as well as a large collection of sound recordings. The composers Akhmet Zhubanov (1906–1968) and Aleksandr Zataevich (1869–1936) are well-represented in the Performing Arts Reading Room (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/perform/new.access.html>), as is the composer Evgenii Brusilovskii (1883–1969) and the great Kazakh composer known simply as Kurmangazy (i.e., in Kazakh: Kurmangazy Sagyrbayuly; in Russian: Kurmangazy Sagyrbaev, 1823–1896), who set to music some of the Kiui legends of Kazakh folklore.

Not all material in the Music Division is listed in the online catalog, so interested researchers should check the various card catalogs and other finding aids in the division for access to the full collections and as always, seek out the assistance of the specialized staff in each division.

## CONCLUSION

The Library of Congress is a rich source for scholars working with Central Asian countries research. Many of the materials are digitized and can be accessed online through the library's Web page. Photographs, maps, and guides about and from Kazakhstan can be downloaded and used for comprehensive research. However, the authors urge researchers to visit the library in order to obtain full access to all the materials there related to Kazakhstan and the Central Asian countries.

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